

HOLCOMBE PARISH COUNCIL
MENDIP DISTRICT OF THE COUNTY OF SOMERSET

www.holcombepc.org.uk

Clerk: Vickie Watts, Gallant Hill Farm, Foxcote, Radstock, BA3 5YB
clerk@holcombepc.org.uk 01749 880428 / 07971 516916

**Minutes from Holcombe Parish Council Meeting, which took place on
Tuesday 8th August 2024 at Holcombe Village Hall**

Councillors Present Cllr Brand (Chair)
Cllr Eade
Cllr Emery
Cllr Gait
Cllr Roberts

In attendance: There were 3 members of the public present.
Clerk Vickie Watts taking the minutes.

1. Public forum

There were no points raised.

2. Apologies for absence

Cllr Davies, Cllr Govier, Cllr Kerr and Cllr Stratford all sent apologies which were accepted by the Chair.

3. Declaration of interests and dispensations

There were none.

4. Planning Applications

2024/1252/FUL – Retrospective application of replacement of Agricultural Vehicular Access.
Land At 366975 148892 Edford Hill, Holcombe, Radstock

All Councillors had considered the plans prior to the meeting. Cllr Brand outlined the application before a planning consultant spoke on behalf of the applicant. He explained that the applicant had not realised at the time of installation that planning permission was required. This was due to the fact that the existing entrance would be accessing a classified road, (if it had been a minor road it wouldn't have been required) hence why the permission is being applied for retrospectively – it was not intentional and a common mistake that people make.

The other access points at the top and bottom of the hill are not accessible with modern day farming machinery and the applicant believed that the entrance subject to the application was the safest option with the best visibility for farm contractors and passing road users.

After discussion it was proposed by Cllr Gait and seconded by Cllr Emery that the application should be recommended for approval on the basis that there were no planning reasons for refusal.

Vote: 5 For; 0 Against; 0 Abstention

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5. Parish Council Payments

The following invoices were presented for payment:

Vickie Watts – Salary & Expenses	£233.14
Coleford PC – SLCC Annual membership	£ 47.00
Julia Evans – Plants for Jubilee Garden	£ 9.00

It was agreed that all payments should be approved.

Vote: 5 For; 0 Against; 0 Abstention

6. Playing Field Payments

The following invoices had been agreed by the Playing Field Committee who requested that the cheques should be signed for payment:

Playsafety Limited – Annual inspection	£211.20
Combe Garden Maintenance – Boule pitch	£400.00
Nippers Garden Services – Picnic table repair	£ 15.00

The cheques were signed on behalf of the playing field committee.

7. Discuss letters from Somerset Council regarding Ground maintenance, Litter Bin and Dog Waste Bin charges 25/26

Litter and dog waste bin charges 2025/26 – Somerset Council had written to outline future options re charges for the emptying of litter and dog waste bins on Parish owned land for the 2025/26 financial year.

At this stage they are asking each Parish Council to clarify:

- Total number of combined bins
- Type of bin and the What 3 Word location
- Which bins are Somerset owned and which are Parish Council owned.

Once this information has been received, they are looking to offer three options:

- A cost for Somerset Council to empty the bins (Guide price of £7.82 + VAT per collection)
- Devolve the bin emptying to the Parish Council
- Remove the bin.

Action: It was agreed that the Clerk would respond before the 9th August but also ask how often the bins are currently being emptied.

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Somerset Grass Cutting contract – Somerset Council have informed the Parish Council that their grass cutting contract ends 1st June 2025. They are currently investigating how this might be carried out thereafter and how it might fit with the devolution agenda. They are open to discussions with Parish Councils on ground maintenance either as a full asset transfer or on a maintenance agreement. They have confirmed the total square meterage for each parish along with the maps showing the locations and invite any conversations around the subject.

Action: After discussion it was agreed that the Clerk would obtain quotes for both the additional grass cutting and verge cutting for further discussion at the October meeting.

- 8.** Next meetings:
3rd September 2024 Parish Council meeting

The meeting finished at 20.05 hrs